

***The mission of VTDDC  
is to facilitate connections  
and to promote supports  
that bring people with  
developmental disabilities  
into the heart  
of Vermont communities.***



***We Believe...***

***In communities where all people  
have a "voice" and are heard  
with respect ;***

***In safe communities where  
all people have equal value;***

***In communities that are friendly  
and support equality and  
fulfilling relationships;***

***With opportunities, people  
grow and share their dreams  
and abilities; and***

***That the humanity we share  
is more important than  
our different abilities.***

***For more information about  
2010 Priorities  
VTDDC  
and its projects***

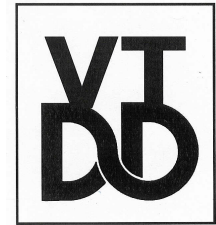
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**Member National Association  
of Councils on  
Developmental Disabilities**



**VERMONT  
DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITIES  
COUNCIL**



**2010  
Public Policy  
Priorities**

## About VTDDC and its Priorities

The Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council is a state-wide board that works to increase public awareness about critical issues affecting people with developmental disabilities and their families. 14 of its 23 members are self-advocates and family members.

VTDDC follows the federal definition of developmental disability:

*A disability that begins before age 22 that substantially affects three or more activities of daily life such as self-care, communication, movement, learning, self-direction, independent living, and employability.*

The following Priorities are based on what Vermonters told VTDDC in extensive outreach during 2006. 179 people from around the state participated in a survey about what needed to happen and many attended forums held with community partners. The Priorities are embedded in VTDDC's 5 Year Plan (2007-2011) that guides its systems advocacy work and the projects it funds.



### **Priority 1**

***PUT PEOPLE FIRST! Provide the supports Vermonters with developmental disabilities need to live with dignity as a vital part of our communities.***

- Keep the promise made to people and families when Brandon Training School closed to provide the individualized supports people need to work, live and thrive
- Maintain job & community supports that also help family members and support staff stay working and contributing to Vermont's economy
- Expand flexible supports and increase options so people get what they need.
- Stem the erosion of Vermont's system of care, and require full and complete analysis of the impact of cuts on the lives of people

### **Priority 2**

***End waiting lists of Vermonters in need of developmental services***

- Protect people who meet priorities from being put on new waiting lists
- Support eligible Vermonters with significant developmental disabilities who are not being served because of the limited priorities of the System of Care Plan
- Require public data reporting to assess ongoing service and support needs of applicants and those on waiting lists

### **Priority 3**

***Students with Individual Education Plans need stable developmental service supports through the transition years from high school to independence***

- Develop a predictable funding system for students so transition teams can plan ahead
- Address the needs of students with functional developmental disabilities
- Require public data reporting to assess ongoing support needs of students with IEP's in transition years, including those with functional developmental disabilities

### **Priority 4**

***Vermont needs an independent information, referral and assistance source for people with disabilities and family members***

- Support a specialized link that ensures people with developmental disabilities and their families get unbiased information on how to get started & navigate complicated systems

### **Priority 5**

***People with developmental disabilities need transportation options to be part of community life***

- Develop a stable system for funding public transportation so that people have transportation options for work, school, medical, social, recreation & other needs